

Message Text

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2416

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1750

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

USUN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, EAID, EINT

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE EEC-ACP CONNECTION

1. HANS B. KROHN, DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND, WAS THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR'S GUEST AT LUNCH ON JUNE 30. KROHN IS MAKING A GENERAL TOUR THROUGH THE AFRICA-CARIBBEAN-PACIFIC AREA COUNTRIES WHICH ARE BENEFICIARIES OF THE LOME CONVENTION. AFTER LUNCH KROHN TOOK ME ASIDE TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. HE SAID THAT THE FUND HAD COME UNDER CRITICISM IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BECAUSE OF LACK OF ACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS IN THE CASE OF UGANDA. IN THE END, HE SAID THAT THE SOPHISTIC RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING HAD TO BE MADE THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE ACTION WITHIN THE FUND CONTEXT ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS BECAUSE NO PROVISION FOR SUCH ACTION HAD BEEN MADE IN THE LOME CONVENTION. KROHN SMILED WRYLY AND SAID THAT
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THIS DEFENSE WOULD NOT BE OF MUCH USE FOR VERY LONG BECAUSE A LOME II CONVENTION WAS BEING DRAFTED AND THE QUESTION OF INCLUDING POSSIBLE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS WITHIN LOME II CONVENTION WAS SURE TO ARISE.

3. KROHN ASKED ME TO REVIEW THE HISTORY OF UNITED STATES HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION. I DID SO WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE

TO SECTION 116 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT (THE HARKIN AMENDMENT) AND ALSO THE HARKIN AMENDMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. KROHN EXPRESSED SOME SKEPTICISM OVER THE "CONSISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS VIOLATIONS" FORMULATION AND THE PROBLEM OF MAKING DETERMINATIONS. HE ASKED WHO MADE SUCH DETERMINATIONS. I EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. KROHN SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR WHITE EUROPEANS TO MAKE HUMAN RIGHTS JUDGEMENTS ON ACP MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE ACP COUNTRIES, BY AND LARGE, WERE FORMER COLONIES.

4. I NOTED THAT THE EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AT STRASBOURG HAD A GOOD REPUTATION FOR FAIRNESS AND ACCURACY, BUT KROHN SAID THAT THE COLOR QUESTION WOULD STILL BE IMPEDIMENT IN THE USE OF THAT ORGANIZATION.

5. I ACKNOWLEDGED THE PROBLEM AND SAID THAT PERHAPS THE BEST WAY TO GET AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS FACTOR WOULD BE TO HAVE A PROVISION IN LOME II WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THAT A HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION BE FORMED WITHIN THE ACP MECHANISM AND THAT REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE WITHIN MEMBER STATES BE MADE A REQUIREMENT. I SAID MY EXPERIENCE WAS THAT STATES APPEARED TO FEEL KEEN EMBARRASSMENT OVER NEGATIVE HUMAN RIGHTS PUBLICITY AND THAT SUCH PUBLICITY COULD SOMETIMES LEAD TO IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. KROHN TOOK THE IDEA OF AN ACP HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION AND EXTENDED IT BY SAYING SUCH REPORTS

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COULD THEN BE FORWARDED TO THE EEC FOR SUCH DISPOSITION AS THE COMMISSION AND THE PARLIAMENT MIGHT WISH TO MAKE OF THEM.

6. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO FOLLOW-UP THIS DISCUSSION BY MAKING CONTACT WITH KROHN WHEN HE RETURNS TO BRUSSELS.

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Message Attributes

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